

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: MODIFICATION OF ECONOMIC REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

REF : (A) STATE A-6598, OCT 22, 1975; (B) BELGRADE 6328

1. SINCE ASSUMING CHARGE OF THIS MISSION I HAVE DIRECTED VARIOUS MISSION ELEMENTS TO ESCHEW PIECEMEAL APPROACH TO THEIR WORK IN FAVOR OF DEVELOPING COMPREHENSIVE AND MORE PROFOUND UNDERSTANDING OF YUGOSLAVIA'S FUTURE AS THE COUNTRY SEEKS TO IMPLEMENT THE DOCTRINES OF THE 1974 CONSTITUTION AND RECONCILE ITS INTERNAL DIRECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL EXIGENCIES. ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, I HAVE BEEN PLACING GREATER EMPHASIS ON ASSESSING NUMEROUS CHANGES, SOME SWEEPING AND FUNDAMENTAL, UNDERWAY THROUGHOUT THE SYSTEM. THE CHANGES CAN HAVE SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC EFFECT AND AN IMPACT ON US INTERESTS. GREATER FOCUS AND INTERPRETIVE REPORTING ON THE CHANGES - THEIR MEANING AND LIKELY SUCCESS OR FAILURE - IS DICTATED BY NEEDS WHICH RANGE FROM MAINTAINING A SOUND FOUNDATION FOR POLICY FORMULATION TO HELPING THE INDIVIDUAL U.S. COMPANY COPE WITH SUCH DEVELOPMENTS AS MODIFICATIONS IN INVESTMENT LEGISLATION, A MORASS OF IMPORT RESTRAINTS AND SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT PLANS BEING FORMULATED FOR EACH SECTION OF YUGOSLAVIA.

2. TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR THIS ESSENTIAL WORK, I HAVE EXAMINED EACH ASPECT OF OUR ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL PROGRAMS AND REORDERED SOME PRIORITIES. IN REGARD TO THE CERP, I THINK IT BEST TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS.

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 00483 240859Z

(A) DELETE CERP 0101 - NATIONAL INCOME AND PRODUCT

ACCOUNTS. SINCE NOT ALL DESIRED STATISTICS ARE OBTAINABLE AND THOS AVAILABLE ARE RELEASED ONLY WITH CONSIDERABLE LAG, THIS REPORT APPEARS TO BE AN HISTORICAL RECORD WITH LITTLE CURRENT VALUE. TO THE EXTENT THAT THE DESIRED INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE, IT WILL BE INDCLUDED IN THE MISSION'S QUARTERLY ECONOMIC TRENDS REPORTS (SEE BLOW).

(B) REDUCE THE FREQUENCY OF CERP 0004 FROM SEMI-ANNUAL TO ANNUAL, DUE MAY 15. THIS REPORT WOULD APPEAR REDUNDANT FOR WASHINGTON AGENCIES SINCE THE MISSION SUBMITS A FAR MORE COMPREHENSIVE (UNCLASSIFIED) QUARTERLY ECONOMIC TRENDS REPORT WHICH ALSO CAN SERVE THE US BUSINESS COMMUNITY. FOR THE BENEFIT OF US BUSINESSES, HOWEVER, THE MISSION WILL ALSO PROVIDE ONE ANNUAL REPORT IN THE FORMAT REQUIRED BY CERP 0004 CONTAINING DATA FOR THE PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR AND OUR ASSESSMENT OF FIRST QUARTER DEVELOPMENTS. INCLUDED WILL ALSO BE AN ANALYSIS OF BEST PROSPECTS FOR US INDUSTRY IN YUGOSLAVIA AS PART II, WHICH WILL FULFILL ANOTHER CERP REQUIREMENT (SEE BELOW). VOLUNTARY QUARTERLY COMPREHENSIVE TRENDS REPORTS WILL BE SUBMITTED IN APRIL-MAY, JULY-AUGUST, OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, AND FEBRUARY-MARCH.

(C) I HAVE INSTRUCTED MY STAFF TO SUBSTITUTE CERP 1216 - BEST PRODPECTS - WITH ALERT REPORTING THAT WILL BE SUMMARIZED IN ANNUAL CERP 0004 REPORT, AND THAT CAN BE USED IN PLACE OF BEST PROSPECTS FORMAT DUE IN SEPTEMBER. THE REPORT IN ITS PRESENT FORMAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE DRAWN FROM MATERIAL AVAIABLE IN THE MISSION. IN THE ABSENCE OF RESEARCH CONTRACTED BY WASHINGTON OR TIME TO GATHER MARKET DATA ON OUR OWN, WE HAVE LITTLE APPROPRIATE MATERIAL IN OUR FILES AND THUS MUST DEVOTE 35 FSO AND FSL PROFESSIONAL WORK - DAYS TO PREPARE A REPORT WHICH, IN THE FINAL RESULT, AMOUNTS TO SUPERFICIAL GUESSWORK. THE REQUIRED YUGOSLAV STATISTICS ARE TWO YEARS OUT OF DATE AND GENERALLY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE PRESENT FORMAT. VISITING BUSINESSMEN HAVE COMMENTED THAT THE BROADBRUSH PRESENTATION, THOUGH COMMENDED IN WASHINGTON APPRAISALS, DOES NOT REALLY ESTABLISH WHETHER THEIR PARTICULAR PRODUCTS ARE MARKETABLE IN THIS COUNTRY. I THINK THAT THE BEST PROSPECTS PRESENTATION IN THE CERP/0004 WILL ACHIEVE THE SAME PURPOSE
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PAGE 03 BELGRA 00483 240859Z

WITH LESS EFFORT. TO THE EXTENT THAT TIME IS AVAILABLE TO GATHER MARKET DATA, THE MISSION WILL CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS IN THE PREPARATION OF DETAILED ANALYSES OF ONE OR TWO INSUDTRIES.

3. THE ABOVE CHANGES WILL NOT RESULT IN DIMUNITION OF ANY INFORMATION SENT TO WASHINGTON BUT WILL ENABLE US TO PROVIDE IT MORE EFFICIENTLY. THE MODIFICATIONS, HOWEVER, WILL FREE UP ONLY LIMITED TIME AND I WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR OTHER WAYS TO APPLY MORE TIME TO ESSENTIAL INTERPRETIVE REPORTING.

THIS TASK IS DIFFICULT SINCE I AM AWARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES
OF VARIOUS AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON AND WISH TO CONTINUE TO
PROVIDE THE INFORMATION THEY NEED. I WOULD WELCOME REVIEW OF THE
ENTIRE CERP SCHEDULE BY WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND THEIR
SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER PARING.
SILBERMAN

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